

RESOLUTIONS AND REMONSTRANCE

OF THE

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ST. JOHN'S, COLLETON, S. C

AGAINST ANY FURTHER INCREASE

OF THE

DUTIES ON IMPORTS, &c.

DECEMBER 14, 1827.

Referred to the Committee on Manufactures.

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RESOLUTION AND REMONSTRANCE

1837

LEGISLATIVE SOCIETY OF ST. LOUIS, COLLEGE, &c.

AGENCY AND FURTHER INCREASE

DUTIES ON IMPORTS, &c.

Resolutions in relation to the Tariff Policy and Colonization Society, unanimously adopted by the Agricultural Society of St. John's, Colleton, on the 11th of July, 1827.

The Agricultural Society of St. John's, Colleton, impressed with the importance of the present eventful national crisis; believing that a revolution in the policy of the Government is about to be attempted, which, if successful, will array one branch of industry against another, and engender incurable sectional feuds, thereby endangering the perpetuity of the Union; alarmed at the doctrines which have so often and so deliberately been avowed on the floor of Congress, in relation to the domestic institutions of the Southern States; they would be recreant to their high and imperative duty as patriot citizens, not to proclaim their explicit and undisguised opinion.

They believe that capital should be allowed to seek the most profitable channels, and that every pursuit ought to be free to compete in the grand career of human effort; they believe that the interest of Agriculture, Commerce, and Manufactures, can best be promoted by the want of, rather than by, Congressional interference; and that, if either Agriculture or Manufactures should need the fostering aid of law, it is within the *unquestionable* competency of State legislation to effect that purpose by prudent and judicious disbursements from the State Treasury; they believe that, as long as the constituent members of the Confederacy are permitted *undisturbedly* to adopt and to be governed by their own schemes of domestic policy; as long as the General Government revolves in its *obviously* constitutional sphere of action; so long shall the People of these United States be free, happy, and contented.

The present political situation of this country presents the anomalous aspect of 11,000,000 of citizens suffering under oppressive and insulting exactions to relieve the imaginary wants of as many hundred. Shall this state of things continue? Shall the interest of the yeoman and the merchant be forever tributary to the interest of a privileged order, created, it is true, by the operation of law, but not the less disgusting and odious on that account? Shall the Southern Planter humbly kiss the rod which chastens him? Shall he tamely submit to an anticipated system of taxation, which in one momentous respect will bear *exclusively* on his capital? If not, then the period is rapidly arriving when it shall become him practically to prove that allegiance and protection are convertible terms. Influenced by these considerations, this Society adopts the following resolutions, viz:

Resolved, That the creation of a Manufacturing System by Congress, is to protect the industry of one class of the citizens, at the expense of all the rest, and to impose an indefensible and onerous tax on the consumer.

Resolved, That the present unexampled depression of the staple articles of the Southern States is mainly to be ascribed to the operation of the tariff of 1816 and 1824.

Resolved, That the Woollens Bill was a wanton attempt to sacrifice the permanent welfare of the country on the shrine of a moneyed aristocracy.

Resolved, That the domestic policy of the Southern States is not a legitimate topic of discussion for Congress. Those States believe themselves competent to self-government, and that they, and they alone, understand their true interest.

Resolved, That the Colonization Society aims a destructive blow at the whole property of the Southern Agriculturist.

Resolved, That Congress is not constitutionally empowered to extend to it its protection. Any attempt to attain that object would be impolitic, unjust, and a dangerous exercise of authority.

Resolved, That the Corresponding Secretary be directed to transmit a copy of the foregoing resolutions to each of the Senators and Representatives in Congress from this State, accompanied with instructions to the Delegate from this District to bring the resolutions to the view of Congress at an early period of its session.

JOHN R. MATHEWES,

President.

EPHM. M. SEABROOK, Sen.

Recording Sec'y.